

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 13

By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Billy Shawn Ellis of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Billy Shawn Ellis, a young man of seventeen and a senior at Heritage High School in Maryville; and

WHEREAS, Billy was an exemplary student who maintained straight A grades in all honors classes; faculty members described him as "exceptional", "talented in many areas", "self-motivated and determined" and "a truly outstanding young man"; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ellis was a delegate to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Forum and the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense Intelligence and Diplomacy; he was a youth representative to East Tennessee's Nine Counties - One Vision and participated in the Governor's School for International Studies and the Economics for Leaders Program; and

WHEREAS, Billy was named a Student of Distinction during his sophomore year and earned Academic Letters in Social Studies during the last two years; he was on the Academic Honor Roll beginning his freshman year and was named to "Who's Who Among American High School Students" during his junior and senior years; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ellis had applied for admission to George Washington University, where he planned to enroll in the Elliot School of International Affairs and major in International Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Billy was active in the National Honor Society, the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics club, the Heritage High School marching band, and he was a member of Future Business Leaders of America his junior year; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ellis' interest in government and politics led him to volunteer in the 1988 re-election campaign of state Senator Bill Clabough; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and will be missed by Bill Ellis, his father, his mother and step-father Pat and Kenneth Hatcher; his sisters and brothers, Susan Ellis, Angela Ellis, Paul Allbritton and Evon Allbritton; his grandmother Virgie Ellis; and his nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Billy Ellis displayed a commitment to excellence, leadership ability, high intelligence and desire to serve humanity that gave evidence of great promise for whatever path in life that he may have chosen; and

WHEREAS, Billy leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in his all-too-brief life, compassion and loyalty to family and friends and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional and promising young man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Billy Shawn Ellis, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his brilliant promise and his stalwart commitment to living an exemplary life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Billy Ellis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.